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Shenandoah National Park News Release

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Shenandoah National Park to open Civilian Conservation Corps Museum

Trish Kicklighter, Acting Superintendent of Shenandoah National Park, announced today that architectural design and construction documents for the rehabilitation and remodeling of the Panorama building to the Panorama Visitor/Education Center are nearing completion. One focus of the center will include a museum dedicated to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The museum will feature a state-of-the-art exhibition highlighting the contribution of the CCC in both building Shenandoah National Park and the Nation. Eighteen separate exhibits will place Shenandoah's eleven camps within the greater context of the Great Depression and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs. The museum exhibits will be created from over 465 historic and modern graphic images, historic film clips and audio recordings, and nearly 250 museum objects ranging from original CCC uniforms and recipe books to letters home to Mom, the majority of which have been donated by family members of CCC enrollees. Although the museum will stress the contributions of the CCC "boys" in creating the park, it will also clarify the role the program served in providing a meaningful work experience for over 2 million young men nationally between 1933-1942.

Construction for the Panorama facility including the museum is expected to begin in early 2006. When completed the facility, which is adjacent to both the Skyline Drive and US Highway Route 211, will be open year round.

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